

Message Text

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21 15

ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 ARA-16 EUR-25

COME-00 ISO-00 GAO-03 ABF-01 A-01 /113 R

DRAFTED BY IO/CMD:JWMCDONALD,JR.

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, GAO

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW OF US PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN ADVISED DIRECTLY
BY LETTER FROM JAMES A. DUFF, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, US
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING OFFICE, OF IMPENDING GAO VISIT.
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE NOW MET WITH GAO REPRESENTATIVES
AND CONFIRM THAT THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE GROUP OF THE
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GAO IS STUDYING THE UN SYSTEM FOR PLANNING, PROGRAMMING

AND MANAGING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. GAO TEAM HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS ASSIGNMENT AT USUN FOR PAST SIX MONTHS AND SEVERAL GAO REPRESENTATIVES MET PRIVATELY AND INFORMALLY WITH US NATIONALS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL STAFFS AT HEADQUARTERS OF UNESCO (PARIS), ILO AND WHO (GENEVA), FAO (ROME), AND UNIDO (VIENNA) APRIL AND MAY THIS YEAR.

2. PURPOSE OF VISIT TO YOUR COUNTRY, AS INDICATED IN GAO'S LETTER, IS "TO DETERMINE HOW THE UN SYSTEM IS ORGANIZED AND STAFFED, ITS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND HOW THESE PROGRAMS ARE PLANNED, COORDINATED, PROGRAMMED, DIRECTED, CONTROLLED AND EVALUATED. THIS WILL REQUIRE CONTACT WITH UN ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS AS WELL AS AID MISSION PERSONNEL."

3. EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ELMER STAATS, COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE GAO, TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS ON MARCH 5, 1970 IN PART AS FOLLOWS:

"I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS NOT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GAO TO REVIEW THE INTERNAL OPERATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. INDEED, WE, LIKE OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO AUDIT THEIR ACTIVITIES."

DEPARTMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY COOPERATED WITH GAO AND ITS INTERESTS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OVER PAST FOUR YEARS AND WISHES CONTINUE TO DO SO. HOWEVER, WE AND YOU ARE AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF A BILATERAL US INVESTIGATION OF MULTILATERAL UN ACTIVITIES. WE WISH TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION BY HOST GOVERNMENT AND BY REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES RESIDENT IN YOUR COUNTRY THAT US, AS ONE MEMBER OF 135-NATION UN, IS ATTEMPTING TO INVESTIGATE A PARTICULAR UN AGENCY IN YOUR COUNTRY. WE DO AGREE THAT IT IS WITHIN GAO'S MANDATE TO EXAMINE MANAGEMENT OF US INTERESTS IN UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS WELL AS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS. WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT IF HOST COUNTRY OR INTERNATIONAL AGENCY RAISES QUESTION WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM OF RIGHT OF ONE GOVERNMENT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUDIT OR REVIEW UNILATERALLY WORK OF UN IN ANOTHER COUNTRY HE WOULD MOST PROBABLY REJECT THE THESIS AND THWART OPPORTUNITY FOR FUTURE INFORMAL CONSTRUCTIVE CONSULTATION.

4. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, WE WOULD BE GUIDED INITIALLY BY EMBASSY'S EVALUATION OF HOST COUNTRY'S PROBABLY REACTION TO VISIT. IF EMBASSY AGREES, WE ARE PREPARED TO APPROACH

UNDP HEADQUARTERS AND REQUEST, ON INFORMAL BASIS, UNDP ADMINISTRATOR TO ASK RESREP IN YOUR COUNTRY TO COOPERATE TO UTMOST WITH GAO TEAM DURING COURSE THEIR VISIT. BECAUSE FAO REP AND WFP REP WORK CLOSELY WITH UNDP RESREP, WE ALSO PREPARED, IF EMBASSY AGREES, BASED ON EVALUATION LOCAL SITUATION, TO APPROACH DIRECTOR GENERAL FAO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WFP TO ASK THEM TO INSTRUCT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO COOPERATE WITH GAO.

5. IF VISITS WITH FOREIGN NATIONALS AND INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS DO TAKE PLACE, GAO SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH US PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND THE

RELATIONS BETWEEN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY WOULD BE EXPECTED TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS, ACCOMPANY GAO OFFICIALS ON VISITS AND REPORT TO DEPT ON THESE MEETINGS.

6. ROUGH SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

URUGUAY - 10/26 - 11/06
COLOMBIA 11/07 - 11/16
VENEZUELA - 11/17 - 11/27

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